

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 32-49. Please add new claim 50. The claims are as follows:

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) A method for recording server authentication information, comprising:

establishing, by a first server of a plurality of servers in a federated computing environment, a trusting relationship between the first server and a second server of the plurality of servers;

after said establishing the trusting relationship, obtaining by the first server an authentication policy of the second server, wherein an authentication policy for each server of the plurality of servers is defined as at least one rule of each server for authenticating users of the federated computing environment; and

after said obtaining the authentication policy of the second server, registering by the first server the authentication policy of the second server within the first server.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said establishing the trusting relationship comprises exchanging, by the first server, an electronic certificate of the first server with an electronic certificate of the second server in accordance with a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) method.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said obtaining the authentication policy of the second server comprises accessing the authentication policy of the second server from a profile table prepared by an administrator of the second server.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the at least one rule includes a number of alphabetic characters of a user identification (ID), a number of numeric characters of the user ID, a data size for fingerprint authentication, a data size for voice print authentication, [[and]] or combinations thereof.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said registering the authentication policy of the second server comprises registering the authentication policy of the second server in an authentication policy table of the first server, wherein the authentication policy table of the first server comprises an authentication policy of each server of the plurality of servers registered therein.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the authentication policy table of the first server further comprises: a server address of each server registered therein; and a relative priority of each server of a group of servers having a same authentication policy in the authentication policy table.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the authentication policy of the second server is identical to an authentication policy of the first server, wherein a first common identifier (ID) exists in an authentication information Lightweight Directory Access Protocol

(LDAP) of the first server and in an authentication information LDAP of the second server, wherein the first common user ID is used by a first user in the first server and by a second user in the second server such that the second user differs from the first user, and wherein the method further comprises:

after said registering the authentication policy of the second server, registering by the first server the first common user ID in a exceptional ID table of the first server, wherein the exceptional ID table of the first server stores common user IDs and an indication of one or more servers associated with each common user ID stored in the exceptional ID table of the first server.

32-49. (Canceled)

50. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the at least one rule includes a number of alphabetic characters of a user identification (ID), a number of numeric characters of the user ID, a data size for fingerprint authentication, and a data size for voice print authentication.